

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 102948
ORIGIN NSF-02

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-----060405Z 036076 /11

P 052214Z MAY 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TGEN, US, UR

SUBJECT: S & T: COMPUTER APPLICATIONS: LARGE SYSTEMS
(01.0102) -

1. SUMMARY. IN TELECON ON 5 MAY WITH NIKITIN OF GOSPLAN
COMPUTER CENTER, AUFENKAMP WAS TOLD THAT SOVIET SIDE COULD
NOT RESPOND AT THIS TIME TO US REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION ON
SOVIET PLANS FOR CARRYING OUT JOINT PROGRAM EFFORT UNDER
TOPIC 2 (LARGE SYSTEMS, 01.0102). THE REASON GIVEN BY
NIKITIN WAS SOVIET SIDE WAS REVIEWING THE COOPERATIVE
EFFORTS FROM THE VIEWPOINT OF STRUCTURE AND ORGANIZATIONAL
RESPONSIBILITIES. NIKITIN INDICATED THAT SOVIET RESPONSE IN
REGARD TO COOPERATIVE PROJECTS UNDER TOPIC 2 WOULD BE
FORTHCOMING BY LAST WEEK OF JUNE. END SUMMARY

2. AUFENKAMP SPOKE BY TELEPHONE 5 MAY WITH V. N. NIKITIN OF
GOSPLAN'S COMPUTER CENTER WITH LUDMILLA VISOTSKAY, SENIOR
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EXPERT AT THE COMPUTER CENTER, AS INTERPRETER. NIKITIN IS A
SUBDIVISION CHIEF IN THE LEGAL AND PROTOCOL DEPARTMENT OF
THE COMPUTER CENTER. HE SEEMS TO WORK AS A STAFF ASSISTANT
TO LEBEDINSKIY IN CONNECTION WITH THE S & T AGREEMENT, BUT
OCCASIONALLY WILL TAKE A DIRECT ROLE IN NEGOTIATIONS.
BEZRUKOV WAS SAID TO BE BACK IN THE OFFICE FROM A MONTH-LONG

STAY IN THE HOSPITAL BUT WAS OUT AT THE TIME OF THE TELEPHONE CALL FOR A DOCTOR'S APPOINTMENT. (THEY HAD EXPECTED THAT MY CALL WOULD COME THROUGH AT 1400 HOURS MOSCOW TIME, NOT 1200 NOON.)

I CALLED AT THEIR SUGGESTION FOLLOWING A PREVIOUS CONVERSATION IN APRIL TO DISCUSS DIRECTLY SOVIET PLANS FOR MY VISIT FOR THE JOINT STUDY ON INFORMATION FLOW METHODOLOGY WITH GOSPLAN AND ALSO TO INQUIRE ABOUT SOVIET INTENTIONS REGARDING A PROPOSED SEMINAR IN THE U.S. IN SEPTEMBER ON BALANCING METHODS.

NIKITIN SAID THAT WHILE GOSPLAN HAS THE U.S. PROPOSALS AND SUGGESTIONS REGARDING TOPIC 2 (LARGE SYSTEMS, 01.0102) THEY WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO RESPOND AT THIS TIME BECAUSE THE SOVIET SIDE IS REVIEWING THE ENTIRE STRUCTURE OF THE AGREEMENT, INCLUDING THE ASSIGNMENT OF RESPONSIBLE ORGANIZATIONS. HE SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THE U.S. SIDE WAS DOING THE SAME THING.

SINCE THIS STATEMENT BY NIKITIN WAS IN RESPONSE TO MY QUERY ABOUT THE PROJECT TO WORK TWO MONTHS AT GOSPLAN ON THE PROPOSED JOINT STUDY, ALSO QUERIED NIKITIN FURTHER TO SEE IF THE SAME RESPONSE WOULD APPLY TO THE MORE USUAL COOPERATIVE ACTIVITIES SUCH AS THE SEMINAR PROPOSED FOR THE U.S. IN SEPTEMBER. THE RESPONSE WAS AGAIN THAT GOSPLAN COULD NOT TAKE ANY ACTION AT THIS TIME DUE TO THE REVIEW OF THE COOPERATION UNDERWAY ON THE SOVIET SIDE.

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THERE DID NOT SEEM TO BE ANY INDICATION THAT THE PROPOSED JOINT PROJECT AND SEMINAR WOULD NOT EVENTUALLY TAKE PLACE. IN FACT, THE PROMISE WAS MADE AND REPEATED THAT THEY WOULD INFORM ME OF THEIR PROPOSALS BY THE LAST WEEK IN JUNE.

THIS IS THE FIRST SUBSTANTIVE INDICATION I HAVE RECEIVED THAT A SOVIET REVIEW OF THE S & T COOPERATION HAS AFFECTED PROJECT ACTIVITIES IN THE COMPUTER APPLICATIONS WORKING GROUP. ALTHOUGH NIKITIN EMPHASIZED THAT HE WAS SPEAKING FOR TOPIC 2 ONLY, THE POSSIBILITY ARISES THAT OTHER AREAS ARE AFFECTED SIMILARLY AND MAY ACCOUNT, IN PART, FOR THE SLOW RESPONSES OF SOVIET TOPIC COORDINATORS TO U.S. QUERIES IN RECENT WEEKS.

MY ASSESSMENT IS THAT A PROTEST TO GOSPLAN ON THE LACK OF RESPONSE WOULD PROBABLY NOT RESULT IN POSITIVE RESULTS. THE GOSPLAN PARTICIPANTS HAVE FOR THE GREATER PART BEEN MORE CANDID IN RESPONSES THAN HAVE MANY OTHER SOVIET PARTICIPANTS IN THE COMPUTER APPLICATIONS AREA. SINCE

RESPONSES HAVE BEEN EXTREMELY SLOW OR NONEXISTENT IN MANY
OF THE PROJECTS IN THIS WORKING GROUP PROGRAM IN RECENT
WEEKS, EMBASSY MAY WISH TO TAKE UP OVERALL PROBLEM AGAIN
WITH SCST IF THIS WAS NOT DONE DURING MEETING OF ROBERT
MORRIS WITH AYKAZYAN.

CHRISTOPHER

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